

Psychology Major at UW

A guide for future transfer students

Psychology
Undergraduate
Advising

Office Location:
119A Guthrie Hall

Office Hours
9:00-4:30 M-F

Mailing Address:
Box 351525
Seattle, WA 98195

Phone Number:
206.543.2698

Email Address:
psyadvis@uw.edu

Website:
www.psych.uw.edu

Academic Advisers:

Carrie Perrin
cyoung@uw.edu

Vicky Hansen
hansenv@uw.edu

Cy Delgado
delgadoc@uw.edu

Please contact us at
anytime with your
questions.

Welcome to Psychology!

Thank you for your interest in the University of Washington (main Seattle Campus) Psychology Department. The information in this newsletter will give you better understanding of what it takes to become a psychology major after you transfer to UW. We could not cover everything a transfer student should know, so please feel free to contact us at any time with your questions.

What will I learn as a Psychology Major?

You will learn a lot of different ideas, theories and skills as a psychology major at UW. Our department has a strong foundation in scientific and research methodologies with an emphasis on computer and communication skills. In addition, here are some of the learning goals for our majors:

- Understand major concepts in human behavior
- Apply perspectives to various situations
- Explain behavior on several levels of analysis
- Utilize the scientific research methods
- Design and conduct studies
- Draw on and evaluate research evidence
- Utilize technology for data collection/analysis
- Evaluate information as a critical thinker
- Reflect on information and apply it to your life
- Be aware of multiculturalism and diversity
- Use scientific writing to convey a concept
- Communicate in a variety of settings including writing and oral presentation

What can I do with my Psychology Major?

Because the psychology major offers a broad, social sciences and liberal arts education, there are many different types of careers available for a psychology graduate. Generally speaking, our students do well in business, human resources, marketing, management, research, teaching, social services, sales, and public service, just to name a few. We encourage our students to seek out networking and internship opportunities as undergraduates to gain a greater understanding of their chosen field. We have some opportunities for internships listed on our Psych 497 website, but would be happy to meet with you to discuss a plan for your specific interests.

Many of our students also apply to graduate or professional programs in counseling/therapy, research psychology, teaching, social work, health fields (medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary science, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physicians assistant, etc.), business and the law. If you are interested in continuing your education beyond your bachelors degree, we would enjoy helping you figure out your plans. We have a lot of resources available to help students plan for a graduate or professional program.

Psychology BA vs. BS. Which one should I choose?

Most of our students (about 65%) will select the BA program. The BA program offers a strong foundation in general psychology and is appropriate for many of our students. The BS program was developed to serve our students who have strong math and quantitative skills and are interested in preparing for a research-orientated graduate program. We are happy to work with you on an individual basis to make this decision.

What are the Psychology Admission Requirements?

The admission requirements for both the Bachelors of Arts and the Bachelors of Science are the same.

Psych 101 Introduction to Psychology

Psych 202 Biopsychology (sometimes titled Physiological Psychology)

Psych 209 Fundamentals of Psychology Research

Math 111, 112, 120, 124 or higher or placement into Math 124 (154 on the UW Advanced Math Placement Test).

Students interested in the BS program only need Math 120 to apply, but will need Math 124 to register for Psych 317.

* Each course from above must be completed with a 2.0 grade. Students in the BS program must have a 2.5 in Psych 209.

** Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA for Psych 101, 202 and 209.

*** Minimum 2.0 cumulative University of Washington GPA.

When can I apply to the psychology major?

You must first be enrolled at the University of Washington (Seattle Campus) and have completed all of the departmental admission requirements before you can apply to the major. If you already have all of your Psych 101, 202, 209 and math courses complete at the start of your first quarter at UW, you can apply during that quarter. Applications are due the first Friday of every quarter (including Summer). If you need to take Psych 202 or 209 or your math class during your first quarter at UW, then you can apply to the major during your second quarter.

What if my community college doesn't offer Psych 202 and/or Psych 209?

Psych 202 and 209 are not offered frequently at community colleges. If you are at a school that doesn't offer these classes, then you will take these classes when you get to UW. We save some spaces in these classes for new transfer students to help them prepare for the major. If you are unable to get into one of these spaces, we will help you plan your schedule so you can still graduate on time.

How competitive is the psychology major?

The psychology major is moderately competitive because we have more students interested in the psychology major than we have spaces for students in our majors classes. We base our admissions decisions on students' cumulative GPA in Psych 101, 202, and 209. If you have concerns about your grades, please contact us and we will be able to describe the recent trends for acceptance rates.

Aside from the psychology admission courses, what other classes do you recommend at my community college?

Psychology students are required to take some classes in other fields as a part of the major. We encourage our students to take these related field classes if they have time in their schedules at their community college. As discussed above, Psych BA students will need one math course (Math 111, 112, 120, or 124) and Psych BS students will need Math 120 and 124. Also, students in either major will need to take one anthropology or sociology course (any level) and one Biology course (with anatomy or physiology; Biology 118, 161, 162, 180, 200, 201, 202, or 220). Psych BS students will also need Philosophy 120 or 160.

In addition to specific psychology requirements, our students must complete the general education requirements in the College of Arts and Sciences to graduate from UW.

The General Education Requirements are:

English Composition (minimum grade C or 2.0)

Foreign Language through 3rd quarter, three years of high school, placement by exam out of the first year level, or native speaker status. (minimum grade C or 2.0 for 3rd quarter class)

Quantitative/Symbolic Reasoning *your math course and your Psych 315 or 317 class will meet this requirement.

Additional Writing (10 credits.)

Areas of Knowledge (20 credits in each of the following areas plus 15 credits in any area for a total of 75 credits)

Visual, Literary and Performing Arts (VLPA)

Individuals and Society (I&S)

Natural World (NW)

*15 credits of your psychology courses will also count toward these Areas of Knowledge

Since most transfer students are attempting to complete their associate's degrees before transferring to UW, many of these requirements will be fulfilled with their usual coursework. Some of our students will need to pay particular attention to their foreign language and their VLPA classes. If you are at a Washington State Community College, then you can check to see how each of your classes will transfer to UW by looking at the Equivalency Guide located at:

<https://admit.washington.edu/EquivalencyGuide>

My community college offers a lot of different math courses. Which pre-calculus class should I take?

If you are attending a Washington state community college, you should check the UW Equivalency Guide to make sure that your class is equivalent to Math 111, 112, 120 or 124 or beyond. If you are attending a different school, then you should check to see if your class is the pre-requisite to calculus 1. Some community colleges take the UW Math 120 pre-calculus course and divide it into a two course sequence. If you are at such a school, then you will need to take the second pre-calculus course and you need a minimum grade of a 2.0 in this course to apply to the psychology major. If you have any questions, please contact us.

My community college offers a bunch of psychology classes (abnormal, social, developmental psych, etc.). Should I take these classes?

Many of our transfer students are excited to take every psychology class offered. These classes will transfer to UW as 200-level psychology elective courses and will count as credit for graduation. For the psychology major, you only need two 200-level courses (specifically Psych 202 and 209). Therefore, while other 200-level courses from your community college will count as general electives, they will not fulfill specific degree requirements.

How long will it take to get my BA or BS from UW?

If you transfer to UW with 90 credits from your community college, you can usually graduate from UW in six quarters (90 credits). Some students are at UW for one or two extra quarters if they decide to take a reduced course load or to complete a double major or a minor or if they have not taken many of their College of Arts and Sciences General Education Requirements. We enjoy meeting with students to create graduation plans and to discuss difficulties if they arise.

I have more than 90 credits from my community college. How many of these credits will count toward my degree?

After your credits have been evaluated by our Office of Admissions, you will know how your classes transferred to UW. If you have more than 90 credits, we can add some of the additional credits toward the 180 credits needed for graduation if this is useful in completing your academic goals. You can have up to 135 total credits from another school count for your degree. It would be difficult to complete the psychology major in just 45 credits, or three quarters, but we might be able to work out a plan.

In addition to my regular course work for the psychology major, what other opportunities are available for psychology students?

Many students are interested in another academic field and find that our major works really well for those who want to complete a minor or a second major. A complete list of majors at UW may be found at:

<http://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/degree-overview/majors/list-of-undergraduate-majors/>

A complete list of UW minors may be found at:

<http://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/degree-overview/minors/>

We require that all of our students, either in the BA or BS program, complete an independent learning experience. Although this experience can vary for students, usually they choose to work in one of our research labs or to complete a psychology related internship. Each quarter, we offer over 120 different research opportunities for students. More information may be found on our Psych 499 and Psych 497 websites.

In addition, many of our students will choose to get actively involved on campus in a student organization or will do independent community service. Some students will elect to study abroad either for a month in the summer or for a quarter or longer. For more information about studying abroad, please see the International Programs and Exchanges website.

When can I meet with a psychology adviser?

We are happy to meet with prospective UW students at any point in their planning process. We can look over your transcripts and give you advice about which classes to select at your community college or we can talk to you about the process of applying to UW as a transfer student. We can sort out a graduation plan once you get to UW or help you register for classes. We can identify different university resources and help you if any difficulties arise. We spend a lot of time helping students with understanding how to apply to graduate programs or how to get an internship or job.

Making an appointment with a psychology adviser is easy—just give us a call at 206-543-2698 or visit us at our Transfer Thursday event, most Thursdays at 3:30 in room 119A Guthrie Hall.

If you have a quick question, please feel free to give us a call at 206-543-2698 or send us an email, at psyadvis@uw.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!